

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUSSEL 00331 231632Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

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FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3435

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USAREUR HEIDELBERG

USAFC RAMSTEIN

USCINCEUR STUTTGART

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUSSELDORF 331

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT GW

SUBJ: TENSIONS BETWEEN NRW FDP AND SPD

REF: A. DUSSELDORF 247 B. DUSSELDORF 0157 C. DUSSELDORF 0111

D. DUSSELDORF 0104 E. DUSSELDORF 0088

1. THERE ARE SOME INDICATIONS OF CRACKS IN THE SPD/FDP COALITION  
IN NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIA. THE POULLAIN AFFAIR (SEE REFTELS) HAS  
PRODUCED SOME TENSION BETWEEN THE COALITION PARTNERS; THE FDP FEELS  
BETRAYED BY THE SPD BECAUSE THEIR REPRESENTATIVES ON THE  
SUPERVISORY BOARD OF THE WESTDEUTSCHE LANDES BANK (WLB), NRW  
ECONOMICS MINISTER DR. HORST-LUDWIG RIENER AND INTERIOR MINISTER  
DR. BURKHARD HIRSCH WERE NOT INFORMED, EITHER INTENTIONALLY OR  
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PAGE 02 DUSSEL 00331 231632Z

THROUGH NEGLECT, ABOUT THE CHARGES PENDING AGAINST LUDWIG POULLAIN,  
THE DISMISSED GENERAL MANAGER OF THE WLB.

2. MORE RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN MORE EVIDENCE OF GROWING  
DISSENT BETWEEN THE COALITION PARTNERS. IN PERSONNEL MATTERS  
THE FDP IS DEVIATING FROM THE SPD'S POSITION ON FILLING  
GOVERNMENT VACANCIES, SUCH AS PRESIDENTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE

DISTRICTS (REGIERUNGSPRAESIDENT) AND POLICE PRESIDENTS, WITH COALITION SUPPORTERS. THE FDP HAS SUGGESTED ALLOCATING A FAIR SHARE OF THESE POSITIONS TO THE CDU. IN ADDITION THE NRW/FDP FACTION IS TAKING INDEPENDENT POSITIONS ON MONOR POINTS WHICH ARE IRKSOME TO THE SPD. INDICATIONS THAT THE NRW/FDP FACTION IS USING EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE ITS INDEPENDENCE OF THE SPD ARE INCREASING.

3. SPD POLITICOS PROFESS TO OBSERVE A DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE FDP AND THE CDU AND ARE GETTING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT A GROWING RAPPROCHEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT PARTNER WITH THE OPPOSITION. IN A NUMBER OF INSTANCES THE FDP HAS FORMED A COALITION WITH THE CDU IN MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS. NRW/CDU CHIEF HEINRICH KOEPLER SEEMS TO HAVE REACHED SUCH A DEGREE OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FDP THAT HE COULD STATE THAT THE FDP COULD NO LONGER BE REGARDED AS "A CAPTIVE OF THE SPD." THE GROWING INTIMACY BETWEEN THE FDP AND CDU LEADERS IN NRW HAS ALARMED THE FDP RANK AND FILE TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT IT IS REPORTEDLY PLANNING TO RAISE THE MATTER AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NRW/FDP IN APRIL, 1978.DUX

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